

SKR

Send out more horses, *skirre* the country round;
Hang those that talk of fear. *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*
To SKIRRE. *v. n.* To ſcour; to ſeud; to run in haſte.
We'll make them *skirre* away as ſwift as ſtones
Enforced from the old Alfyrian flings. *Shakeſp. Henry V.*
SKI'RRET. *n. f.* [*ſſjarum*, Latin.] A plant.
It produces its flowers in an umbel, which conſiſts of ſeve-
ral leaves placed circularly, and expanded in form of a roſe:
the empalement afterward becomes a fruit, compoſed of two
narrow ſeeds, that are gibbous, and furrowed on one ſide, but
plain on the other. The roots are ſhaped like long turneps,
and are joined to one head. *Miller.*
Skirrets are a ſort of roots propagated by feed. *Mortimer.*
SKIRT. *n. f.* [*ſkirtie*, Swediſh.]
1. The looſe edge of a garment; that part which hangs looſe
below the waſt.
It's but a nightgown in reſpect of yours; cloth of gold and
cuts, ſide ſleeves and *skirts*, round underborne with a bluſh
tinfel. *Shakeſp. Much Ado about Nothing.*
As Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the
ſhirt of his mantle, and it rent. *1 Sa. xv. 27.*
2. The edge of any part of the dreſs.
A narrow lace, or a ſmall *skirt* of ruffled linen, which runs
along the upper part of the ſtays before, and croſſes the breaſt,
being a part of the tucker, is called the modeſty-piece. *Addiſon.*
3. Edge; margin; border; extreme part.
He ſhould ſeat himſelf at Athie, upon the *skirt* of that un-
quiet country. *Spencer on Ireland.*
Ye miſts, that riſe
From hill or ſteamy lake, duſky or grey,
'Till the ſun paint your fleecy *skirts* with gold,
In honour to the world's great Author riſe. *Milton.*
Though I fled him angry, yet recall'd
To life prolong'd, and promiſ'd race, I now
Gladly behold, though but his utmoſt *skirts*
Of glory, and far off his ſteps adore. *Milt. Parad. Loſt.*
The northern *skirts* that join to Syria have entered into the
conqueſts or commerce of the four great empires; but that
which ſeems to have ſecured the other is the ſtony and ſandy
deſerts, through which no army can paſs. *Temple.*
Upon the *skirts*
Of Arragon our ſquander'd troops he rallies. *Dryden.*
To SKIRT. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To border; to run along
the edge.
Temple *skirteth* this hundred on the waſte ſide. *Carew.*
Of all theſe bounds,
With ſhadowy foreſts and with champions rich'd,
With plenteous rivers and wide *skirted* meads,
We make thee lady. *Shakeſpeare.*
The middle pair
Skirted his loins and thighs with downy gold. *Milton.*
A ſpacious circuit on the hill there ſtood,
Level and wide, and *skirted* round with wood. *Addiſon.*
SKITTISH. *adj.* [*ſkye*, Daniſh; *ſchew*, Dutch.]
1. Shy; eaſily frighted
A reſtiſt *skittiſh* jade had gotten a trick of riſing, ſtarting,
and flying out at his own ſhadow. *L'Eſtrange.*
2. Wanton; volatile; haſty; precipitate.
Now expectation, tickling *skittiſh* ſpirits,
Sets all on hazard. *Shakeſpeare.*
He ſill reſolv'd, to mend the matter,
T' adhere and cleave the obſtinater;
And ſtill the *skittiſh*er and looſer,
Her freaks appear'd to fit the cloſer. *Hudibras.*
3. Changeable; fickle.
Some men ſleep in *skittiſh* fortune's hall,
While others play the ideots in her eyes. *Shakeſpeare.*
Such as I am, all true lovers are;
Unſtaid and *skittiſh* in all notions eſſe,
Save in the conſtant image of the creature
That is below'd. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*
SKITTISHLY. *adv.* [from *skittiſh*.] Wantonly; uncertainly;
fickly.
SKITTISHNESS. *n. f.* [from *skittiſh*.] Wantonneſs; fickleneſs.
SKONCE. *n. f.* [See SCONCE.]
Reinard ranſacketh every corner of his wily *ſkonce*, and
beſtirreth the utmoſt of his nimble ſtumps to quit his coat
from their jaws. *Carew.*
SKREEN. *n. f.* [*ſſcran*, *ſſcrein*, French, which *Minſheu* derives
from *ſſecrinculum*, Latin. *Nimis violentus ut ſlet*, ſays *Skinner*,
which may be true as to one of the ſenſes; but if the firſt
ſenſe of *ſkreen* be a kind of coarſe ſieve or riddle, it may per-
haps come, if not from *cribrum*, from ſome of the deſcendants
of *cerno*.]
1. A riddle or coarſe ſieve.
A ſkuttle or *ſkreen* to rid ſoil fro' the corn. *Tuſſer.*
2. Any thing by which the fun or weather is kept off.
3. Shelter; concealment.
Fenc'd from day, by night's eternal *ſkreen*;
Unknown to heav'n, and to myſelf unſeen. *Dryden.*

SKY

To SKREEN. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To riddle; to ſift. A term yet uſed among maſons when
they ſift ſand for mortar.
2. To ſhade from ſun or light, or weather.
3. To keep off light or weather.
The curtains cloſely drawn, the light to *ſkreen*:
Thus cover'd with an artificial night,
Sleep did his office. *Dryden.*
The waters mounted up into the air: their interpoſition be-
twixt the earth and the ſun *ſkreen* and ſence off the heat,
otherwiſe inſupportable. *Woodward's Natural Hiſtory.*
4. To ſhelter; to protect.
Ajax interpoſ'd
His ſevenfold ſhield, and *ſkreen'd* Laertes' ſon,
When the inſulting Trojans urg'd him ſore. *Philips.*
He that travels with them is to *ſkreen* them, and get them
out when they have run themſelves into the briars. *Lake.*
His majeſty encouraged his ſubjects to make mouths at their
betters, and afterwards *ſkreened* them from puniſhment. *Spett.*
The ſcales, of which the ſcarf-ſkin is compoſed, are de-
ſigned to fence the orifices of the ſecretory ducts of the military
glands, and to *ſkreen* the nerves from external injuries. *Cheyne.*
SKUE. *adj.* [Of this word there is found no ſatisfactory deri-
vation.] Oblique; ſidelong. It is moſt uſed in the adverb
askue.
Several have imagined that this *ſkue* poſture of the axis is a
moſt unfortunate thing; and that if the poles had been erect
to the plane of the ecliptick, all mankind would have enjoyed
a very paradise. *Bentley.*
To SKULK. *v. n.* To hide; to lurk in fear or malice.
Discover'd, and defeated of your prey,
You *skulk'd* behind the fence, and ſneak'd away. *Dryden.*
SKULL. *n. f.* [*ſkiela*, Iſlandick; *ſkatti*, Iſlandick, a head.]
1. The bone that incloſes the head: it is made up of ſeveral
pieces, which, being joined together, form a conſiderable cavity,
which contain the brain as in a box, and it is proportionate
to the bigneſs of the brain. Its figure is round, and a little
depreſſed on its ſides. The ſeveral pieces, of which the ſkull
is compoſed, are joined together by ſutures, which makes it
leſs apt to break: theſe pieces or bones are fix proper and two
common, and each is made up of two tables, or laminae, be-
tween which there is a thin and ſpongy ſubſtance, made of
ſome bony fibres, which come from each lamina, called in
Greek *διπλαι*, and in Latin *medullarum*. In it are a great
many veins and arteries, which bring blood for the nour-
iſhment of the bones. The tables are hard and ſolid, becauſe in
them the fibres of the bones are cloſe to one another. The
diploe is ſoft, becauſe the bony fibres are at a greater diſtance
from one another. The external lamina is ſmooth, and covered
with the pericranium: the internal is likewiſe ſmooth;
but on it are ſeveral furrows, made by the pulſe of the arteries
of the dura mater, whilſt the cranium was ſoft and yield-
ing. *Quincy.*
Some lay in dead men's *ſkulls*; and in thoſe holes,
Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept,
As twere in ſcorn of eyes, reflecting gems. *Shaleſ. R. III.*
With redoubled ſtrokes he plies his head;
But drives the batter'd *ſkull* within the brains. *Dryden.*
2. [Secole, Saxon, a company.] A ſhoal. See SCULL.
Repair to the river where you have ſeen them ſwim in *ſkulls*
or ſhoals. *Walter.*
SKULLCAP. *n. f.* A headpiece.
SKULLCAP. *n. f.* [*caſſida*, Latin.] A plant.
The ſlorets are longiſh, one in each ala of the leaves: the
upper leaf is galeated like an helmet, with two auricles adjoin-
ing: the under leaf, for the moſt part, is divided into two:
the calyx, having a cover, contains a fruit reſembling the heel
of a ſlipper or ſhoe. *Miller.*
SKY. *n. f.* [*ſky*, Daniſh.]
1. The region which ſurrounds this earth beyond the atmo-
ſphere. It is taken for the whole region without the earth.
The mountains their broad backs upheave
Into the clouds, their tops aſcend the *ſky*. *Milton.*
The maids of Argos, who with frantic cries,
And imitated lowings, fill'd the *ſkies*. *Reſonment.*
Raiſe all thy winds, with night involve the *ſkies*,
Sink, or diſperſe. *Dryden's Æn.*
2. The heavens.
The thunderer's bolt you know,
Sky planted, batters all rebelling coaſts. *Shakeſp. Cymbeline.*
What is this knowledge but the *ſky* ſto'l'n fire,
For which the thief ſtill chain'd in ice doth ſit. *Duoſis.*
Wide is the fronting gate, and raiſ'd on high,
With adamant columns threatens the *ſky*. *Dryden.*
3. The weather.
Thou wert better in thy grave, than to answer with thy un-
covered body this extremity of the *ſkies*. *Shakeſp. K. Lear.*
SKYEY. *adj.* [from *ſky*.] Not very elegantly formed.] Ethereal.
A breath thou art,
Servile to all the *ſky* influences,
That do this habitation, where thou keep'ſt.
Hourly afflic't. *Shakeſp. Measure for Measure.*
SKY-COLOUR. *n. f.* [*ſky* and *colour*.] An azure colour; the
colour of the ſky.
A ſolution as clear as water, with only a light touch of *ſky*-
colour, but nothing near ſo high as the ceruleous tincture of
ſilver. *Boyle.*
SKY-COLOURED. *adj.* [*ſky* and *colour*.] Blue; azure; like the
ſky.
This your Ovid himſelf has hinted, when he tells us that
the blue water nymphs are dreſſed in *ſky-coloured* garments. *Add.*
SKY-DYED. *adj.* [*ſky* and *dye*.] Coloured like the ſky.
There figs, *ſkydye'd*, a purple hue diſcloſe. *Pope.*
SKY-ED. *adj.* [from *ſky*.] Enveloped by the ſkies. This is un-
uſual and unauthoriſed.
The pale deluge floats
O'er the *ſky'd* mountain to the ſhadowy vale. *Thomſon.*
SKYISH. *adj.* [from *ſky*.] Coloured by the ether; approaching
the *ſky*.
Of this flat a mountain you have made,
T' o'er top old Pelion, or the *ſkyiſh* head
Of blue Olympus. *Shakeſp. Hamlet.*
SKYLARK. *n. f.* [*ſky* and *lark*.] A lark that mounts and
ſings.
He next proceeded to the *ſkylark*, mounting up by a proper
ſcale of notes, and afterwards falling to the ground with a
very eaſy deſcent. *Speſtator.*
SKY-LIGHT. *n. f.* [*ſky* and *light*.] A window placed in a room,
not laterally, but in the ciling.
A monſtrous fowl dropt through the *ſkylight*, near his wife's
apartment. *Arbuton, and Pope's Mart. Scriblerus.*
SKYROCKET. *n. f.* [*ſky* and *rocket*.] A kind of firework,
which flies high and burns as it flies.
I conſidered a comet, or in the language of the vulgar a
blazing ſtar, as a *ſkyrocket* diſcharged by an hand that is al-
mighty. *Addiſon.*
SLAB. *n. f.* *Arifworih.*
1. A puddle.
2. A plane of ſtone: as, a marble *slab*.
SLAB. *adj.* [A word, I ſuppoſe, of the ſame original with *ſlabber*,
or *ſlaver*.] Thick; viſcous; glutinous.
Noſe of Turk, and Tartar's lips;
Finger of birth-ſtrangl'd babe,
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab;
Make the gruel thick and *slab*. *Shakeſp. Macbeth.*
To SLABBER. *v. n.* [*ſlabben*, *ſlabberen*, Dutch.]
1. To let the ſpitte fall from the mouth; to drivel.
2. To ſhed or pour any thing.
To SLABBER. *v. a.*
1. To ſneer with ſpitte.
He *ſlabbered* me all over, from cheek to cheek, with his great
tongue. *Arbuton's Hiſtory of John Bull.*
2. To ſhed; to ſpill.
The milk pan and cream pot ſo *ſlabber'd* and ſoft,
That butter is wanting, and cheeſe is half loſt. *Truſſer.*
SLABBERER. *n. f.* [from *ſlabber*.] He who ſlabbers.
SLABBY. *adj.* [The ſame with *slab*.]
1. Thick; viſcous.
In the cure of an ulcer, with a moiſt intemperies, *slabby*
and greaſy medicaments are to be forborn, and drying to be
uſed. *Wife's Surgery.*
2. Wet; ſloody.
When waggiſh boys the ſtunted bemoſt ply,
To rid the *slabby* pavements, paſs not by. *Gay.*
SLACK. *adj.* [*ſleac*, Saxon; *ſlaken*, Iſlandick; *ſlack*, Welch;
laxus, Latin.]
1. Not tenſe; not hard drawn; looſe.
The vein in the arm is that which Aretæus commonly
opens; and he gives a particular caution in this caſe to make
a *slack* compreſſion, for fear of exciting a convulſion. *Arbuton.*
2. Remiſs; not diligent; not eager; not ſervent.
Thus much help and furtherance is more yielded, in that, if
ſo be our zeal and devotion to Godward be *slack*, the alacrity
and fervour of others ſerveſh as a preſent ſpur. *Hæker.*
Seeing his ſoldiers *slack* and timorous, he reproved them of
cowardice and treaſon. *Kneller.*
Nor were it juſt, would he reſume that ſhape,
That *slack* devotion ſhould his thunder 'ſcape. *Waller.*
Rebellion now began, for lack
Of zeal and plunder, to grow *slack*. *Hudibras.*
3. Not violent; not rapid.
Their pace was formal, grave, and *slack*:
His wimble wit our-ran the heavy pack. *Dryden.*
A handful of *slack* dried hops ſpoil many pounds, by taking
away their pleaſant ſmell. *Mortimer's Hiſtory.*
4. Relaxed; weak; not holding faſt.
All his joints relax'd:
From his *slack* hand the garland wreath'd for Eve
Down dropp'd, and all the faded roſes ſhed. *Milton.*
To SLACK. } *v. n.* [from the adjective.
To SLACKEN. }
1. To be remiſs; to neglect.
When thou ſhalt vow a vow unto the Lord, *slack* not to pay
it. *Deutr. xxiii. 21.*

SLA

2. To loſe the power of coheſion.
The fire, in lime burnt, lies hid, ſo that it appears to be cold;
but water excites it again, whereby it *slacks* and crumbles into
fine powder. *Mason's Mech. Exer.*
3. To abate.
Whence theſe raging fires
Will *slacken*, if his breath ſtir not their flames. *Milton.*
4. To languish; to fail; to flag. *Arifworih.*
To SLACK. } *v. a.*
To SLACKEN. }
1. To looſen; to make leſs tight.
Ah generous youth, that wiſh forbear;
Slack all thy fails, and fear to come. *Dryden.*
Had Ajax been employ'd, our *slacken'd* fails
Had ſtill at Aulis waited happy gales. *Dryden.*
2. To relax; to remit.
This makes the pulſes beat, and lungs reſpire;
This holds the ſinews like a bridle's reins,
And makes the body to advance, retire,
To turn or ſtop, as the them *slacks* or ſtrains. *Davies.*
Taught power's due uſe to people and to kings,
Taught nor to *slack* nor ſtrain its tender ſtrings. *Pope.*
3. To caſe; to mitigate. *Philips* ſeems to have uſed it by miſ-
take for *slake*.
Men, having been brought up at home under a ſtrict rule of
duty, always reſtrained by ſharp penalties from lewd beha-
viour, ſo ſoon as they come thither, where they ſee laws more
ſlackly tended, and the hard reſtraint, which they were uſed
unto, now *slack'd*, they grow more looſe. *Spencer.*
If there be cure or charm
To reſpite or deceive, or *slack* the pain
Of this ill manſion. *Milton's Paradise Loſt.*
On our account has Jove,
Indulgent, to all moons ſome ſucculent plant
Allow'd, that poor helpſeſ man-night *slack*
His preſent thirſt, and matter find for toil. *Philips.*
4. To remit for want of eagerneſs.
My guards
Are you, great pow'rs, and th' unabated ſtrength
Of a firm conſcience; which ſhall arm each ſtep
T' a'en for the ſtate, and teach me *slack* no pace. *Ben. Johnſ.*
With ſuch delay well pleas'd, they *slack* their courſe. *Milt.*
5. To cauſe to be remitted.
You may ſooner by imagination quicken or *slack* a motion,
than raiſe or ceaſe it; as it is eaſier to make a dog go ſlower
than make him ſtand ſtill. *Bacon.*
This doctrine muſt ſuperſede and *slacken* all induſtry and en-
deavour, which is the loweſt degree of that which hath been
promiſed to be accepted by Chriſt; and leave nothing to us to
deliberate or attempt, but only to obey our fate. *Hammond.*
Extol not riches then, the toil of ſchools,
The wife man's cumbrance, if not ſnare; more apt
To *slacken* virtue, and abate her edge,
Than prompt her to do aught may merit praiſe. *Milton.*
Balls of this metal *slack'd* Atlanta's pace,
And on the am'rous youth beſtow'd the race. *Waller.*
One conduces to the poet's aim, which he is driving on in
every line: the other *slackens* his pace, and diverts him from
his way. *Dryden.*
6. To relieve; to unbend.
Here have I ſeen the king, when great affairs
Gave leave to *slacken* and unbend his cares,
Attended to the chafe by all the flow'r
Of youth, whoſe hopes a nobler prey devour. *Denham.*
7. To with-hold; to uſe leſs liberally.
He that ſo generally is good, muſt of neceſſity hold his vir-
tue to you, whoſe worthineſs would ſtir it up where it wanted,
rather than *slack* it where there is ſuch abundance. *Shakeſp.*
8. To crumble; to deprive of the power of coheſion.
Some unſlack'd lime cover with aſhes, and let it ſtand 'till
rain comes to *slack* the lime; then ſpread them together. *Mort.*
9. To neglect.
Why might not you, my lord, receive attendance
From thoſe that the calls ſervants, or from mine?
—If then they chanc'd to *slack* ye,
We could controul them. *Shakeſp. King Lear.*
This good chance, that thus much favour,eth,
He *slack* not. *Daniel's Civil War.*
Slack not the good preſage, while heav'n inſpires
Our minds to dare, and gives the ready fires. *Dryden.*
10. To reſeſs; to make leſs quick or forcible.
I ſhould be griev'd, young prince, to think my preſence
Unbent your thoughts, and *slacken'd* 'em to arms. *Addiſon.*
SLACK. *n. f.* [from the verb *To slack*.] Small coal; coal
broken in ſmall parts.
SLACKLY. *adv.* [from *slack*.]
1. Loofely; not tightly; not cloſely.
2. Negligently; remiſly.
That a king's children ſhould be ſo convey'd,
So *slackly* guarded, and the ſearch ſo flow
That could not trace them. *Shakeſpeare's Cymbeline.*
SLACKNESS.